



UNITED STATES
AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

USADF's Investments in Agriculture

Creating Pathways to Prosperity for Underserved Communities in Africa

By investing in African agriculture cooperatives and agripreneurs, the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) helps improve food security and systems, increase incomes for smallholder farmers, and build resilience via climate smart practices in underserved communities across Africa.



Millennium Challenge Corporation Niger Climate-Smart Partnership

Niger remains one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change in the world, with very low capacity for resilience. As part of the MCC Niger Compact, the Climate Resilient Agriculture Activity (CRA) was established to help increase agricultural productivity and farm income for producer/processor groups, women and youth groups, and Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). In partnership with MCC, USADF is implementing a US\$9 million Grant Facility in 18 target communes with high rates of poverty driven in part by low agriculture productivity and limited market access. Between October 2019 and March 2021, USADF awarded US\$4.48 million in grants to 47 Nigerien producer/processor groups and MSMEs, 23 of which were women and youth groups.



Turkana Food Security Program

USADF launched the Turkana Food Security Program in March 2011 to boost food security and reduce dependence on food aid in Turkana County, a highly marginalized, arid, and cattle raid-prone region of Kenya. To date, USADF has invested slightly more than US\$10 million in 53 agriculture and energy grantees in Turkana focused on mostly fishing, irrigated agriculture, and livestock income-generating activities. These projects have directly impacted more than 17,000 people and indirectly benefitted more than 88,000. As a result, youth formally engaged in cattle rustling received business loans, farmers had access to solar-powered irrigation, cattle traders could better market their livestock, and fishing groups increased their catch and revenues.



Government of Benin Value Chains Partnership

USADF's first investments in Benin helped farmers improve the productivity of their cashew plantations and better organize their cashew marketing activities to obtain higher returns on these investments. USADF and the Government of Benin have invested US\$2.07 million in nine projects in the cashew sector, reaching over 17,700 farmers. The first two projects funded generated a 270 percent increase over baseline revenues by the cooperatives, with total sales reaching over US\$23 million over a three-year period. Through this co-funding partnership, USADF aligned its country strategy with the goals and priorities of the Government of Benin to increase and expand agricultural productivity and exports.



Nourishing Africa

Nourishing Africa's mission is to drive the profitable and sustainable growth of the African agriculture and food landscapes by attracting, empowering, equipping, and connecting over 1 million dynamic and innovative young agricultural entrepreneurs. Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) in Nigeria struggle for survival due to lack of access to markets, training, capacity building, and funding opportunities. In 2020, USADF awarded US\$250K to Nourishing Africa's Entrepreneur Support Program (ESP), alongside additional funding from Mastercard Foundation, to train 2,000 youth agri-preneurs and provide grants of up to US\$8.5K to 125 MSMEs in 11 states in Nigeria. Nourishing Africa's ESP is assisting agripreneurs to improve their businesses' profitability and sustainability and build resilience.



UNITED STATES
AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

USADF's Investments in Agriculture

Creating Pathways to Prosperity for Underserved Communities in Africa

The U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) is an independent U.S. government agency established by Congress to invest in African grassroots organizations, entrepreneurs, and SMEs. USADF's investments promote local economic development by increasing incomes, revenues, and jobs. Utilizing a community-led development approach, USADF provides seed capital and local project management assistance to African-owned and -led enterprises addressing some of Africa's biggest challenges around food insecurity, insufficient energy access, and unemployment—particularly among women and youth. Between 2017 and 2021, USADF invested more than US\$120 million directly into over 1,000 African-owned and -operated entities and impacted over 7 million lives.

On average, for every US\$10K in USADF grant funding in Africa, 25 workers are hired in the agriculture sector and 19 by youth-led enterprises, while 79 people are connected to electricity.

The Impact

More than 60 percent of the population of sub-Saharan Africa work as smallholder farmers, and about one-fourth of the continent's gross domestic product comes from agriculture. As such, agriculture represents USADF's largest sector for investments, creating the most opportunity to improve lives and create pathways to prosperity.

Agriculture by the Numbers Since 2014



US\$62M

Invested
in Agricultural Enterprises



22

African Countries
including areas of refugee settlement and
communities affected by conflict



465

Enterprises
often comprising farmer cooperatives
and producer associations

USADF Partnerships and Programs

USADF's results-based development model maximizes taxpayer dollars by linking African host country government funds, corporate social investments, and U.S. Government interagency funding sources to achieve sustainable economic growth opportunities for grassroots, small, and growing enterprises in underserved regions across Africa.



Benin



Malawi



Mauritania



Senegal



Uganda